



Principal's Note

'The wound is the place where the Light enters you.'

– Rumi

The Japanese concept of Wabi Sabi has its semblance with the notion of rising from the ashes, to find beauty in the destroyed, the silver lining amidst the grey – beauty with imperfections.

The nation that faced the most appalling disaster in the form of two bombs and the devastating World Wars has learned what it means to fill the world that turns into a scar for life – they have learnt a most important lesson – value your life. The bombings left wounds that would take generations to heal, but they have learnt the importance of recouping from the annihilation. This, they pass it on as a legacy.

The credo says that everything broken has had its share of experience - a past, a memory and a story, and it must be preserved. The brokenness is perceived as an opportunity, and I believe that is, and should be the basic fabric of life.

Wabi Sabi also talks about acceptance – something we all must learn. Our lives aren't fairy tales, nor are we heroes with capes and superpowers. We are ordinary humans, but our grinds and the trials and tribulations that we confront are nothing short of the behemoth crises that sci-fi movies have been gloating. The struggle to survive and fight against all odds gives meaning and later, a profound sense of contentment in our lives.

Wabi Sabi celebrates the conversion of suffering into a chance to celebrate. It also encourages us to live a life connected to nature which would in turn connect us to our inner selves.

The Yamabushi monks in Japan are known to believe in the philosophy 'Uketamo', i.e., acceptance to the core – which implies suffering that is caused by resistance. The acceptance of everything good as well as bad is what gives us ease of life. Accept and appreciate are the two keys to a philosophy that does not create a divide or discrimination.

It is rightly said – 'It takes a Wabi heart to recognise a Sabi beauty.' Wabi Sabi is mending objects that are broken, with gold fillings – making the 'golden scars' or 'Kintsugi' – to mean scars are beautiful - they speak of struggles and accomplishments, courage and strength, and fortitude and resilience.



– Ashish Agarwal

Student Editorial Board



Sanjna Nair
Editor-in-Chief



Lavanya Kapoor



Paloma Jain



Prashasti Praveen



Sania Mirza Baig

REDEFINING PERFECTION

"I have to turn in my projects, prepare for two competitions, study for my examinations and I'm going to have to take up another extra credit assignment. I can't afford to mess up any of these. I have to be at my A-game all the time. That's just who I am."

Does this sound familiar? The constant stream of anxiety to ensure flawlessness in every activity, or the gnawing feeling of failure that overtakes you when you approach any task? It certainly does to me.

In the fabricated Pinterest world, everything is colour-coordinated and the lighting is always flattering. It's a utopia, an ideal universe where nothing ever goes wrong, but anyone would be extremely uncomfortable to call this place "home".

The internet is flooded with quotes about imperfections, and how "everyone makes mistakes." We've heard a million times that mistakes make us human, and we probably have said it to others as well. However, those roots of perfectionism refuse to budge, as if they were anchored somewhere deep within.

At its core, perfectionism is the ideal way to keep uncomfortable emotions at bay, pushing down feelings of discomfort under piles of work so that the feeling of being worth it never fades away. However, the deceptive appearance of peak performances and productivity conceal the toxicity behind this practice, and we forget that perfectionism is a self-destructive belief system. However, I look to overcome this inability to embrace imperfections, and so can you.

Imagine a smooth, plain canvas. Undeniably, it is a mundane display of nothingness. Now, imagine a canvas with playful splashes of paint, torn corners and abstract shapes. Each element speaks out a story desperate to be heard, one that defines the very soul of the piece. Similarly, our imperfections form the dusty collection containing hundreds of short stories about ourselves, and each scar, scab and failure is a reflection of our strength,



Image credit: pexels.com/Todd Trapani

perseverance and passion. A rainbow of colours scattered on your fingers is a telltale sign of a day spent indulging your inner creative, wrinkles are marks of a life well-lived and an unkempt lawn hides within it a multitude of secret adventures.

These examples can go on and on to the end of the world, because that is the omnipresence of the imperfect yet magnificent creations in our universe.

Once we begin to embrace our flaws, we can make peace with the past. Accepting the reality that all the role models we look upto made many of the same mistakes that we did will clear the insecurities that fog our minds. We will be able to move ahead and escape the emotions linked to bad memories, the same emotions that cause us to feel stuck, like a log lodged between the boulders in the bed of a narrow river. A thrashing current of water will come by, push through and liberate the plank, much like finding the beauty in our

shortcomings will help us leave behind the "what was" and move towards the "what will be".

Making peace with ourselves can have the enormous power of propagating the belief that even if we fail sometimes, we aren't "failures" ourselves. Our mistakes don't define us, rather our ability to own up to them and simply do better makes us who we are.

The best part about embracing imperfections is that once we accept our flaws, we will stop looking for "perfect" leaders to inspire us. We will start to find the hero inside of us, one that is waiting to be recognised and revered. We will finally understand that nobody has all the answers. Everybody needs help, and our hearts will open up to the love and light this world, and us, have to offer.

"When I stand before thee at the day's end, thou shalt see my scars and know that I had my wounds and also my healing."

– Rabindranath Tagore

– Mannat Kaur Kandal (12B),
Sanjna Nair (11A)

The culture of a civilization is the art and literature through which it rises to consciousness of itself and defines its vision of the world.

– Roger Scruton

Editor's Note

Literature is, to me, an instrument of culture, an expression of legacy and tradition, an art that puts into words the thoughts and feelings of the writer in such a way that the sentences, interwoven together, come to life on paper and compose a story that surpasses the reigns of language, and the Billabong Bulletin is that quintessential piece of literature.

As for the theme, when I first discovered Wabi Sabi, it was yet another example of aestheticism. Gradually, I learned that it has much more than just a beautiful exterior - it has the power to convey

feelings and emotions, like those of honesty, integrity, modesty, and serenity. I witnessed all of the elements of this elegant philosophy in the entries that flooded our inbox. It was touching to see your magnificent perceptions of the philosophy and how you translated it into the form of expression that spoke to you, be it art, photography, poems, and the likes.

I express my sincere gratitude to all the students who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. We are privileged to be a part of the curating committee of a newsletter that can offer you hope, inspire you, and take you to greater heights.

"Believe you can, and you're halfway there."

– Theodore Roosevelt

– Sanjna Nair, Editor-in-chief



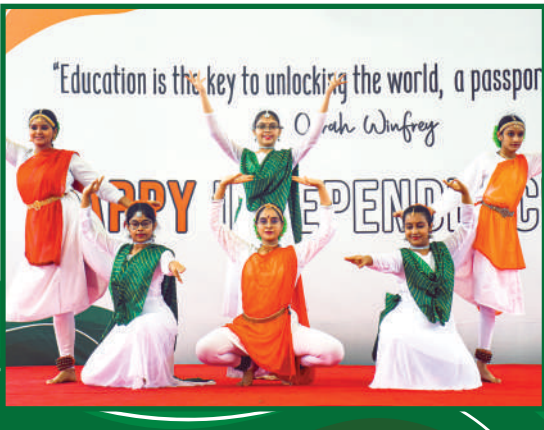
75th INDEPENDENCE DAY

After spending two years in lockdown, Billabong celebrated the 75th Independence Day with the spirit of patriotism. All the students from primary to high school were seated on the basketball court dressed in tri-colour hues as a mark of tribute to our National flag. On the morning of 15th August, as the rain from

the sky was pouring, the flag stood high after being hoisted with pride.

The Student Council of the year 2022-23 was introduced on this auspicious day with a heartwarming speech given by the School Captain.

The occasion was celebrated with performances of dance and music giving light to the struggle of our nation and expressing our love towards our motherland India.



P. ARAVINDAKSHAN Interschool Debate Competition

Billabong organised the Interschool Debate Competition on 12th August 2022 with delegates from various schools in the city.

“Cancel Culture is beneficial to the society and brings greater accountability” was the topic of the debate.

The Chairperson for the debate was Dr. Deevanshu Shrivastava, Associate professor and Head of the Law Faculty at Jagran Lakecity University Bhopal. The event was judged by Mr. Hriday Bhatia, the founder of Diplomathon Global;

Dr. Swati A. Sharma, Professor and Dean at the SAGE University and Mr. Pradeep Ghosh the co-founder of UNESCO Asia Pacific and the recipient of the award ‘The Museum School’.

With heated arguments and long discussions, every delegate put forward their opinions in a profound manner. In the end, the crown of victory was given to the representatives of our school, adding prestige to the name of Billabong in the field of Debate.



Teachers' Day

To honour the dedication and hard work of the teachers, the students put together an eventful series of performances as a token of appreciation and gratitude to celebrate Teachers Day on the 5th of September. After having spent endless, hectic hours teaching and managing students, the

quality time with their teachers and relive precious moments that they have shared. The students wished to give back to their beloved teachers all the unconditional love that has



been showered their way and to pay a tribute to the people that have contributed to their victories, given them priceless advice, and taught them lessons that no textbook in the world could ever teach. This Teacher's Day proved to be a fun-filled day enriched with laughter and cheer and only strengthened the invincible bond between the teachers and their students.



teachers' labour of love for helping to carve out students' personalities was deeply acknowledged by the students of our school, and keeping that spirit in mind, students of High school arranged the event for teachers to unwind, for them to sit back and relax for a change. They put together an amazing show and ensured that the celebrations of this day were fun-filled and lively, replete with games and entertainment for students to spend



Council Dinner



On 29th July 2022, the Student Council for the year 2021-22 was given a heartfelt farewell. All of the council members worked tirelessly throughout the uncertainties of the pandemic and carried out their duties to perfection. This dinner celebrated their achievements as the Student Council and gave them a chance to talk about their experiences while carrying out their roles. Enlightening messages were also given by the Principal and the teachers present in this bittersweet meeting.



Inter House Triathlon

The Inter House Triathlon was an energy-filled event which brought tremendous competition. It took place on 5th July 2022 and marked a great beginning of the school year. The students and teachers had gathered at the Flag Post area in order to see the contestants challenge their stamina and win the competition. The long track of swimming, cycling, and then running was completed in time by a few of the contestants, but even those who participated and finished the Triathlon had attained a position of triumph.





Is the American Dream an Acknowledgeable Reality?



The “American Dream” is an ethos or an ideology driving many U.S. citizens as they work towards creating a life for themselves. It was first introduced in 1931 by author/historian James Truslow Adams. It states that- Life should be better, richer, and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for every individual according to ability or achievement, with neither social class nor the circumstances surrounding their birth becoming a barrier to their success. The unsettled feeling expats have in the U.S. today, it seems Adams hit the nail on the head.

A key element of this dream is that through hard work and perseverance, anyone can rise 'from rags to riches,' becoming financially successful and socially upward.

The American Dream is rooted in the U.S. Declaration of Independence. This declaration states that 'all men are created equal' and that each man/woman has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. While expats can all acknowledge that cultural values have evolved in the U.S., the basic premise of hard work is a requirement and core to the Dream.

I believe that the American Dream starts with education. Sadly, many other countries have implemented what U.S. researchers have documented about educating our kids, but for some reason, expats do not follow their own best thinking. They do not teach kids to learn instead, they teach them how to learn.

The professors of Arts & Sciences look down on the Business School faculty. In other words, the B-School faculty is not at the same level as those from the liberal arts side of the Academy. Ponder that for a moment.

The American Dream is colour blind; it does not care what religion you practice or what gender you are. It is a vital part of what makes the United States of America what it is today. We, as expats, want the generations ahead to do better than us

(whatever your definition of 'better' is). If we no longer think the Dream is viable, we risk losing what makes the great American Experiment special. As Reagan called it, “the shining city on the hill.”

What makes the American Dream an acknowledgeable

reality is its belief to provide every citizen with notions of individual rights, freedom, democracy, and equality. How it believes each individual has the right and freedom to seek prosperity and happiness makes it a reality necessary to achieve success in life.

Ultimately, the American Dream maintains a core set of beliefs: the right to certain freedoms that enable every individual to pursue a life of success and happiness. What success and happiness mean to one person is not necessarily what they mean to another as perspective variance exists from individual to individual. In the end, it is up to us to decide what the American Dream looks like to us, with the knowledge that America allows us to pursue it freely.

YES **NO**



The term American dream has been nurtured by the financially unfortunate at the worst end of social injustice; to bring about a ray of sunshine at the end of the cold, dark tunnel. It symbolises the presence of a profitable outcome to hard work and equal opportunities available for every American. Though I support the hope expressed by such sentiments, I am unable to stand by it in terms of the reality standpoint.

Beginning with a major reason for idealising the States, is the alleged access to better education and overall literacy. This has in more ways than one declined in the past few decades as 79% of its population is currently literate, out of which 54% are not past the 6th-grade level. Whilst we stand at 77.7%

of complete literacy in 2022.

Furthermore, the education system there has also plummeted. The common public schooling in the USA which is affordable for an average immigrant family brings with it a list of flaws. Starting with the deficiency of government funding which prompts poor building conditions, underpayment of teachers, and lack of resources. The large number of working-class Americans being sent to public schools also leads to overcrowded classrooms. In addition to the above, the problems with the common core curriculum, outdated teaching methods, and loosely insured security are just the beginning of a long list with plentiful evidence.

Moving towards another misconception, opportunities are based on ability and skill regardless of culture, race, gender or social class. The prominent recent events regarding racism and police brutality need no clarification. The Black Lives Movement in itself is a warning sign about the loose regulations regarding racism in the justice system, and a brief about the social injustice prevalent there. Apart from that, the issue of abortion is also to be brought into the conversation. The complete federal system of governance present in the USA has caused each state to choose its limitations on abortion rights based on the circumstance. Whereas, India not only excels in the legalisation of abortion rights but also completely covers it in the government health insurance funds.

The display of unfair abortion rights seems like an apt segue into inadequate healthcare. Starting from the financial standpoint, the cost of healthcare coverage is extremely high with little to no follow through in the quality of the treatment, with the risk of bankruptcy present ahead of uninsured people with severe illnesses. Apart from this, healthcare is linked to employment, which makes being laid off endangering your health insurance. Additionally, this healthcare system has a discriminatory tendency to withhold or postpone providing high-quality care to people who are least able to pay for its high cost but most in need of it.

Finally, the argument of gun control and violence. America not only has precarious regulations regarding this matter but also has the right to keep and bear arms in the Second Amendment of their Constitution. Such lenient laws are a recipe for disaster, or in this case mass shootings. A total of 506 people have been killed in mass shootings that took place this year alone.

In conclusion, the aforementioned reasons portray the American Dream rather differently than the original concept set out to do. Though I do not believe it to be an acknowledgeable reality, I still hope for deserving people to be able to beat the odds to live the American Dream. I believe it is the hope that this dream brings about which is more important than what America has to offer for it in return.





Celebrating Imperfections

As rightly quoted by Marilyn Monroe, "Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius and it's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring". Wabi-sabi is a world view centred on accepting transience and imperfection. The aesthetic is described as one of appreciating the beauty that is imperfect, impermanent and incomplete.

Imperfection is perfection. What is 'perfection' anyway? Does it even exist? No rulebook shows what perfection is. Do we waste our precious energy trying to be something that does not even exist? Imperfections differentiate us from each other and make us stand out. Contradiction highlights beauty. Life would be monotonous without differentiation where everyone would be just the same or 'perfect'.

Why do one million people annually come to a small town in Italy called Pisa to contemplate the beauty of The Leaning Tower of Pisa? This influx of tourists from all over the globe is not interested in the beautiful white and perfectly built cathedral, but rather in its crooked 4 degrees tilted freestanding bell tower. Why would anyone travel long distances to marvel at an imperfect building? There is controversy regarding the original designer of the worldwide known tower. Some say he fled the city when his fatal mistake was discovered. Why? He should have the main boulevard of the city named after him. The city would have probably drifted into obscurity without his callousness. He single-handedly and unintentionally secured Pisa's economy for centuries with his imperfect calculations.

The voice and melody of veteran singer Ravindra Jain stays imprinted in the minds and hearts of Indians. He was blind since birth. Ravindra Jain proudly acknowledged that he was grateful for the same in an interview. What we might call a lack of ability enabled him to live his melody.

Ludwin van Beethoven composed various melodious

symphonies after his deafness. Arunima Sinha successfully scaled Mt. Everest after losing her leg. There are endless, inspirational examples of imperfections uplifting and empowering lives.

In various mythologies, including Hindu mythology, imperfections are an integral part. Lord Ganesha is famously known as 'ekadanta' because one of his tusks is depicted as broken. In Greek Mythology, the Gods are personalities with human failings. Various other cultures acknowledge the beauty and purity of imperfections.

We often see tilted trees that maximize the beauty of a scene. Japanese pottery and art consciously implement the ideals of Wabi-sabi, producing each piece that is unique and different. Wabi-sabi nurtures all that is authentic by acknowledging three simple realities: nothing lasts, nothing finishes, and nothing is perfect. We must take inspiration from this life-changing philosophy and implement it in our lives.



Image credit: britannica.com

- Kanishka Paltani (9B)

Beauty in Simplicity

My life is beautiful because...

I am thankful for the seasons,
I am thankful for the butterflies,
I am thankful for the unicorns,
I am thankful for the popcorns.

I am happy my piggy bank is full,
I am happy that I go to school,

I am happy that my friends are many,

I am happy that the days are sunny.

I'm happy my life is so easy-peasy,
I'm happy that I write my fantasy

I'm happy that everything is simple,
I'm happy that everything is minimal.

Nothing could ever buy the inner peace that I can find in my Granny's eyes. No Instagram story looks like the surroundings of her house. No branded perfume smells like that pure air in the middle of the old village. That wrinkly skin is the softest and is the purest form of beauty I have ever seen.

Let us all learn to see the beauty in simplicity as nothing lasts, nothing is finished, and nothing is perfect.

- Gurbani Bhat (4A)

Unraveling The Cosmic Webb



Image credit: nasa.gov

On Christmas Day, 2021, the culmination of over 20 years of meticulous engineering, rendering, designing, and redesigning finally took to the stars, in the form of NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).

As of now, the JWST rests at Lagrange point 2 i.e., L2 (essentially one of 5 points in space where things tend to stay put when placed there, due to certain complicated gravitational interactions), serving its purpose as humanity's mightiest eye in the sky.

In fact, the JWST project is a complete game changer for observational astronomy, and consequently, the scientific community as a whole. To put things into perspective, Webb boasts a primary mirror that is 21.3 feet across, as compared to Hubble's 7.9-foot mirror. This significantly increases the light collection ability of JWST, and as a result, JWST can detect objects around 100 times dimmer than Hubble

could.

Also, not only can JWST see fainter, more distant celestial objects, it can literally see more, owing to the fact that it can detect a large range of infrared wavelengths of light, as opposed to the limited visible and near-UV range of Hubble. These details alone undoubtedly make the JWST project a scientific breakthrough of stellar proportions (quite literally).

In July of 2022, NASA released the first few images captured by Webb, including fascinating shots of the Eta Carinae Nebula and Stephan's Quintet (a group of five dazzling galaxies), and rarely have pictures impacted humans as much as these have. The mission and these images, while certainly being of great scientific relevance, also have a deeply human purpose - to help us find our place in this grand universe.

- Aditya Rajan (12A)

How Wabi-Sabi Was Introduced in Japan?

By the 15TH Century, the tea ceremony had become a pastime of the elite, a show-off of wealth and associated prestige. Murata Juko opposed these elements of the tea ceremony in his composition "Letter of the Heart".

It was the first codification of the Wabi-Sabi Philosophy. He emphasized four elements in his Tea Ceremony.

1. Kei -Respect for Tea itself.
2. Kin-Respect for the Ceremony.
3. Sei-Purity in the soul and material.
4. Ji -Free from desire and selfish thoughts.

In the 16th Century, Sen No Rikyu, the student of Murata Juko and the son of a merchant, studied tea under a Tea Master, and, after his death, he became the successor. In accordance with the Wabi- Sabi Philosophy, he included two tatami mats and two misshapen cups in a rough mud hut during the tea ceremony. Considering this to be an insult and jealousy of his growing fame wealthy Hideyoshi,



Image credit: arabnews.jp

ordered the ritual suicide of Sen No Rikyu.

The death of Rikyu aroused curiosity among the fractions of society, to interpret his teaching. Eventually, Wabi-Sabi philosophy was injected into the Tea ceremony. Philosophy teaches us to love the simplicity and accept the impermanent nature of all things.

It focuses on concentrating on what truly matters in life, decluttering one's living space and mind, spending time with nature and viewing the changing seasons, and enjoying emotions.

Enjoying the present moment is Wabi-Sabi.

- Himansh Daga (3E)



My Idol - My Mum



My mother thanked God every time I fell.
Her logic's very strange as you can tell.
She says it can always be worse than it is,
Being thankful just changes our outlook that's it.

She's very strange as you can tell
Maybe it's because of all she's dealt
Mom couldn't be along to love her long
But left her with many stories and songs
Surrounded by many, seen by none
She marched on, as platoon of one
Whatever came her way, she battled away
She broke down but never did she sway
She laughed on and said each day
It could be worse than what it is,
I say She's loud and noisy as a bee
She quirky and nosy as she can be
She laughs like mad and shouts so too
But my mum is my idol too.

- Mehar Batra (10E)

Image credit: behance.net/ema_malyauka

MEMORIES

Things lost in time are simply divine,
Many memories related bring back happy times.
Like your worn-out teddy bear which you loved a lot,
And those strong feelings about it you still got.
Its broken but beautiful, its old but pretty,
It brings back many joyful memories.
All I am trying to say is
The older it is, the more memories it holds,
Many more stories it unfolds.
In our eyes it is still pretty,
And that's all wabi-sabi.

- Kanishka Jain (4E)



Image credit: melusineh.tumblr.com

The Beautiful World

God created humans all different and unique,
Just like flowers in a garden so pretty and joyful to see.
Some people are tall while some are short,
Like sunflowers and daisies, Growing in a pot.
Some are white while some are colourful,
Like a field of roses, all beautiful.
Some are different than most, Like a newly blooming mistletoe.
Some face many hardships Like a poppy blooming in snow.
Some are like cactus surviving scorching summer,
While some are like sedum surviving harsh winter.
All are unique but same in some way,
Nobody is perfect and yet perfect in every way.
The world is like a garden full of flowers so colourful,
And we are those flowers so unique and beautiful.

- Laraib Hasan Khan (4A)



Image credit : pinterest.com

BEAUTY is Surreal

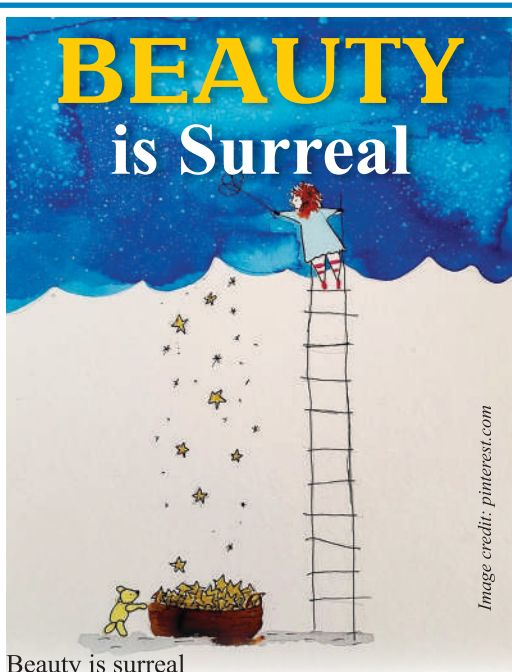


Image credit: pinterest.com

Beauty is surreal
With no dimensions and constraints
Imperfections only add to its domain
Omnipotent from inside
Indistinct from outside.
Puissant and zeal
Seen from only a side
Reminds human beings
Not to underestimate
Incomplete beauty in life.
Seen as worn out and shattered
but in reality
Being the most aesthetic part of life accepting
the jiggered piece
Like an irresistible fragment in life.

- Mritunjoy Chowdhury (10F)

ART OF IMPERFECT GLORY



Image credit: pinterest.com

I love it when the sun shines,
But when it fades away at night,
I feel the distress inside.
Oh, the flowers bloom,
But soon the petals fall,
Well, it's just a cycle coming around.
We know the reality speaks for itself,
But then why do we question it when it's felt?
Isn't the world beautiful?
I have heard about the mountains, deserts, and
beaches in a story,
Well, I guess it's the art of imperfect glory.

- Nancy Chawla (5A)

IMPERFECTIONS

IMPER



Image credit: pinterest.com

The uncertainty of life makes it more exciting,
To live with imperfection makes it more
challenging,
To get hurt and forgive,
makes me more divine.
The pleasure to be rejected is just mine,
why imperfections are so judgmental,
they are a result of my own reflections,
influenced by none.
Existence itself is so orchestrated,
leading to moments of unexplained emotions.
Yet there is one thing which is mine,
imperfections are just fine.

- Raaiyna Aleem (5F)



"I am so sorry," said Enora.

"Sorry! Sorry won't solve anything anymore, Enora, you aren't seven anymore. I think it is time you grow up." said her father, anger dwelling in his eyes. He continued, "You ruined everything again! This deal could have changed our lives but you, you ruined it. God! I wish I would have died instead of your mother! Get lost!"

"Dad!" screamed Enora, as she ran to her room, crying. Her father ran after her but he was late, she had already shut herself in her room. "Enora, dear, I am sorry, it's not your fault that you have this horrid condition," said her dad as he sobbed against her door.

"Really dad? What if I didn't have Tourette, would you have treated me differently? Would you not leave me with tears every night? Would you finally stop thinking that I am just a burden m-mom left behind?" Enora asked her father in a brutal tone of pain.

"ENORA! You are not a burden," her father yelled.

"Then stop treating me like one," said Enora.

This was the conclusion of their bitter conversation. The next day Enora decided to go out for a walk early in the morning in an attempt to escape her father.

She put on her headphones and went for a stroll around her neighbourhood. Her thoughts were constantly rewinding to the fight she had with her father last night and she couldn't control herself from tearing up. The harsh words of her father were like little daggers that stabbed her heart every single second, making her feel like a worthless mass of cells. As she wept, her eyes fell on a sight, a sight that changed her life. She saw a wingless bird, trying its best to fly but kept failing. "Just give up, you will never be enough as long as you

Kalopsia



Image credit: graphigeeek.com

have this flaw," said Enora to herself. As she took a step forward, she noticed that the bird finally took flight. Enora didn't hesitate for a minute, she ran home and bustled through the door. She saw her father standing in the kitchen and as he looked at her he said, "About last night..." Enora interrupted, "No! Today I will talk and you will listen. I am not a burden and my Tourette's syndrome isn't either but you know what? You and your thoughts are a real burden on society. It's people like you who make me think I am not-n-enough but I am and my Tourette is not a horrid condition, it's a part of me, a part that I love and wouldn't trade for the world."

She swung her arm which was a tic she had been struggling with for a week or two, then continued, "You know I will not apologise for my tics. I refuse to. I won't apologise for being myself. You can do whatever you want but this is me, if you have a problem with this so be it. I have nothing to be sorry about." She said these words as tears bled through her eyes and through her father's eyes she seemed like the small and helpless child she used to be. He sprinted and gave her a tight hug. "Enora, my darling, I am not an ideal father or a person but making my daughter feel like this is an unforgivable crime and no punishment will ever be enough for it. I love you so much and nothing will ever change that." Upon hearing these words Enora replied, still crying, "I know dad, I know."

That night, they worked together in the kitchen and baked vanilla cupcakes, which were Enora's mother's favourite snack. Then, they ate the cupcakes while watching old skits that Enora had made with her mother which were recorded by her dad and written on a small cd.

- Kainaat Kapoor (7D)

On an inconsequential day it ends. There is no cheering, no bells, just the wails, cries of maimed cadets.

Upon returning home dreary, he collapses in the corner, unable to find any strength in him. There isn't much to think about other than the ringing in his ears and the sights of the battlefield as they flash past.

He's been dismissed: "The war's over". "We won". It is a lullaby, one they tell themselves to keep their sanity intact. After all, the question remains, what now? He is left to wander, alone, abandoned, and scarred. They'd been fighting for so long, unsure of what would happen if they ever stopped and took time to look. Would the ground swallow them whole? Would they ever repent? Could they?

He limps back to the dilapidated shack called 'home', a promise of normalcy, one that could only last so long. Gravel crunches beneath his feet and the dust and rubble make him cough violently, the familiar smell of ash lingers and the red of previously crushed bodies makes him pause.

It's suffocating. Writhing hands of the people he's mindlessly slaughtered lives worthier than his, they clutch onto him and bellow.

The meaning of a normal day transform into something that seems incomprehensible. He wakes every night wailing, remembering. Oh, he's so tired, so weary. His limbs aches, his voice croaks and heart hurts.

Other nights, he cries and screams and claws at his skin but no one sees him. At times when he goes out it makes him jittery, and footsteps are riddled with a certain heaviness. He watches the passers-by, all with separate lives of their own. None pay him any heed. He hears them laugh and cry and live and his steps become a little lighter.

Maybe someday their happiness will be enough to make his existence bearable. There is no set route to where he's going, he walks and walks. It isn't living, those fleeting moments, he

neither is it close but in breathes.

- Bhaavani Dehalwar (11B)

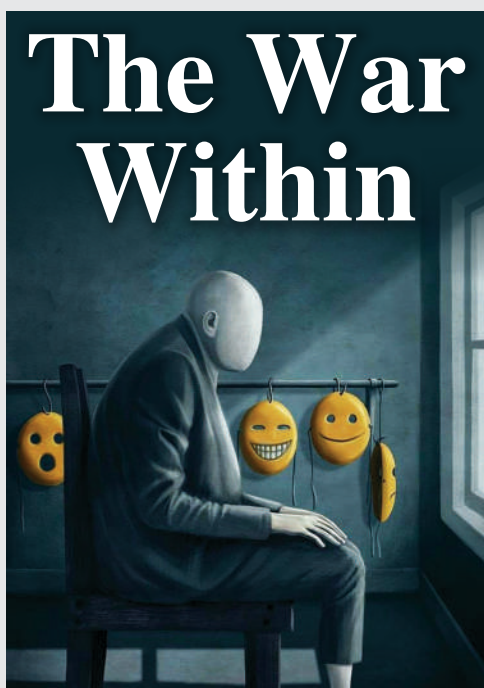


Image credit: julianakolesovaart.crevado.com

The War Within

山乃土-乃土



My room was getting renovated. My wallpaper had come at last!! After a long wait, much after my parent's and sister's wallpapers had arrived! So I loved it all the more!

I sat on my bed that day, admiring my wallpaper, its fluffy white clouds, and sparkling stars.

When morning came, I brought Maggie in. I wanted to show her my room and show off too. Maggie seemed to love my wallpaper. She kept staring at it and

kept going sideways and then forward and backward wagging her tail, admiring it from all directions. She even licked it. Pleased that Maggie liked my wallpaper, I sat down to write a story.

As I was writing, I heard some scratching sounds, I ignored them, engrossed as I was. After completing a few stanzas, I looked up to see what Maggie was doing. Little did I know how much of a liking Maggie had taken to the wallpaper! In her mouth was my new wallpaper!! I was horrified!

I pulled the wallpaper out of her mouth and scolded her. I was angry and upset. I threw her out of the room and told her not to show her face ever again. I made sure to tie her up in her kennel.

However, without Maggie, I was unhappy. My room looked boring without Maggie. I looked around and rearranged my cupboards a bit, moving my bed to the window. The room looked more spacious and pretty. The part where Maggie had torn off the wallpaper was hidden now.

But one paw scratch mark still peeked out from the side. I said "Wabi-Sabi! This looks gorgeous!" It's as though Maggie put her signature paw print on my wall! I was thankful to Maggie for helping me see beauty in imperfection. I brought Maggie back in, and we lay down again admiring the wallpaper.

- Reva Sara Singh (4A)

CHICHI AND THE TEDDY

Once upon a time, there was a little girl named Chichi. She loved her little teddy stuffy toy. She used to carry it everywhere.

One day her father gifted her a pet dog. She was so happy to have him. She used to play with him a lot. One day, when Chichi was at school,

her dog took her favorite teddy and bit it to pieces. When Chichi returned home, she cried a lot.

Her mother saw this and took her teddy to the tailor and got it mended. When Chichi got back her teddy, she loved it a lot. She was very thankful to her mom for saving the thing she loved the most.

- Ayushman Patra (2F)



Image credit: medium.com/@artsvumi

Black Swan

To say that the film *Black Swan* is a masterpiece would be a gross understatement. Directed by the Brilliant Darren Aronofsky, the film is a drama/thriller that absolutely keeps you on the edge of your seat. The movie is about Nina (Natalie Portman), a ballet dancer who slowly begins to lose her sanity when her handler (Vicent Cassel) chooses Lily (Mila Kunis) for the lead role of the upcoming show instead of her. The movie explores psychological behavior and how at times one cannot tell the difference between one's imagination and reality. It explores the pressures an artist must go through and the lengths they can reach to feel the warmth of the spotlight.

If you're someone who enjoys movies that include it all: exceptional story, music, cast and climax, *Black Swan* should be at the top of your list. This is one of those movies that leave you tongue-tied before you sink back into reality. Movies like *Black Swan* completely suck you in and refuse to leave your mind.

I do not think I can find any actor who could do better justice to the complex character of Nina than Natalie Portman. The cast completely delivered what was expected of them and more. The film was

shot in a monotonous white light, with a fusion of intense darkness for the climax. Benjamin Millepied beautifully choreographed the finale. A scene that stood out notably was the Rising Action. It had beautiful visualization and amazing camera movement. I was awestruck during the entire movie. *Black Swan* made me feel something I cannot elucidate using words. The soundtrack of this movie completely enhanced each element. The piano classics made this movie like no other. The viewing audience for this movie is 17 and above as it shows scenes of violence and gore. I recommend this movie to everyone who enjoys a good thriller that leaves their senses shaken.

- Gurnoor Bedi (12B)



Image credit: filmaffinity.com

The Parent Trap



Image credit: commonsensedia.org

The Parent Trap is a 1998 movie about identical twins Halley and Annie. The twins had never met each other until they were 11 because their parents got divorced just after they were born and named. Coincidentally, the couple had sent their children to the same camp. Halley lived with her father in Napa, California while Annie lived with her mother in London. Soon they met and would often play mean tricks on each other. Once, because of Halley's prank, they both had to go into the isolation cabin where they realize that Nicholas Parker, Halley's dad, and Elizabeth James, Annie's mother was actually parents of BOTH of them!! That night Halley devised a brilliant idea to switch places with Annie, meaning Annie would go to Napa to stay with her father and Halley would go to London to stay with her mother. The switch was very hard for Annie because she had to get rid of a few things. Halley lived a perfect life with her mum but Annie was struggling with her confused dad, who was falling for another woman, named Meredith. Halley confesses the truth about the switch to her mum and fools her into believing that her father was waiting for her at the hotel where he was actually getting married to Meredith. A lot of turmoil and drama ensues in the hotel when Halley's mother sees Nicolas in the lift with Meredith, who gradually calls the marriage off. Halley and Annie keep trying to get their parents back together, but are they successful in their relentless attempts? Tune in to Disney Plus to find out!

- Amayera Mishra (4A)

Mystery of the Egyptian scroll

(Zet takes on mystery case #1) is an exhilarating story about two twelve-year-old siblings, Zet and Kat, whose father is off fighting in the Hyksos. They were the ones running their family market stalls while their father was away. It seemed like the adults didn't trust the kids running the market. Since they had not sold a single thing and were in desperate need of money, the kids had to do something. That was when they saw a thief running from the media and they learned that there is a reward for his capture. Zet and Kat became determined to earn the reward. Chasing the thief leads them into forbidden temples with whispering noises of ancient Gods and other such magnificent places. In this story, the readers encounter shocking twists and turns, making it extremely fascinating while also demonstrating Zet and Kat's bravery and boldness during the process. This is a must-read for readers like me who enjoy adventures and mystery stories.

- Navleen Kaur Bagga (7A)



Image credit: mybookcave.com

The Wimpy Kid: Old School is an engaging and entertaining classic book that people of any age would love. The beginning is so interesting and the plot has such twists that you get engrossed in the book. Greg's mother always tells him about the olden days when they used to roam around free, playing in the neighbourhood with their friends without informing their parents since it was so safe back then, and how everybody is immersed in their electronic devices now. The main part of the book is the Field Trip to Hardscrabble Farms where Greg initially did not want to go. Even those who aren't regular readers would love this book since most such readers are interested in pictures and they will find a lot of those.

- Samaira Chhabra (5D)

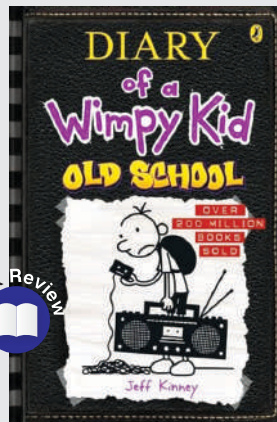


Image credit: Kobo.com

Ikigai for Teens: Finding your Reason for Being

This eye-opening book is authored by Héctor García and Francesc Miralles. It talks about a Japanese concept-Ikigai. Ikigai is described as your fuel of existence, the reason you jump out of bed every day. It is your purpose in life. The book talks about discovering your Ikigai and implementing it in your daily lifestyle. One thing that I love about this book is that it is extremely relatable and relevant in the 21st Century and talks about various aspects that are actually true in this digital world.

The book starts with the line - 'It is no accident that this book is in your hands which instantly catches the reader's eye.' It talks about various topics like the 10,000-hour rule, how screens are our cage, planet Namek, and the four circles, a topic that I personally found very intriguing and

practical. The book is basically about the conquest to find your Ikigai, which is talked about like a journey with various obstacles and how you discover the four circles of Ikigai- What You Love, What The World Needs, What You Are Good At, and What You Can Be Paid For. These circles together make up the Japanese term - IKIGAI.

The book ends with the Epilogue: Everything Is Still To Be Done, which basically means that even though you have finished the book, you still need to practice it in life and discover your Ikigai.

I learned a lot from this book and it truly changed my life and would suggest every individual learn and implement the practice of Ikigai through this book.

- Parth Jhawar (7D)

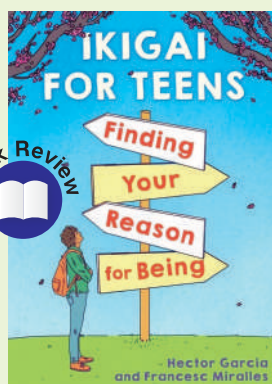


Image credit: chapters.indigo.ca

I AM GROOT

Consisting of 5 very short films, "I am Groot" is a hysterical short series that will surely leave a smile on your face. This series shows baby Groot growing up, and his adventures with the Guardians of the Galaxy. These ephemeral films have Groot competing with a bonsai tree, almost wiping out an entire alien civilization, taking a relaxing bath in a mud pond and many other hilarious incidents all with his iconic dialogue "I AM GROOT". Each short film is just 3-4 minutes in duration making "I am Groot" an absolute must-watch.

- Maan Rajani (7D)



Image credit: imdb.com



Moringa Leaves PARATHA

These leaves boost the immune system, increase mental health and help to prevent over 300 diseases.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups wheat flour
- 1 cup moringa leaves/1 tbsp dried leaf powder
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 tsp ginger garlic paste
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp chili powder
- cooking oil

Instructions:

1. Mix all the ingredients in a bowl except cooking oil and make a dough.
2. Take a small ball of dough.
3. Roll it and make chapati.
4. Cook it on a Tawa and apply cooking oil, your paratha is ready.

Tips:

They have a high nutrition value:
 # 4 times more vitamin A than carrots
 # 7 times more vitamin C than Oranges



Image credit: chefkunalkapur.com

- # 3 times more vitamin E than almonds
- # 3 times more potassium than Bananas
- # 3 times more iron than spinach
- # 4 times more calcium than milk
- # equal amount of protein to peanuts.

- Tanishi Nalwaya (3F)



Belgian Hot CHOCOLATE

Ingredients:

- 237 ml milk
- 85 grams dark chocolate (You can take Belgian chocolate, if available for a more authentic taste)
- 43 grams milk chocolate
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- Whipped cream
- 1 dash cinnamon (Optional)
- 1 tbsp white sugar (Optional)

Instructions:

1. Place half of the milk, chocolate pieces, and salt in a saucepan. Heat on medium-low heat until the chocolate melts. Be sure to stir frequently.
2. Add in the remaining milk, vanilla essence, and a small squirt of whipped cream.
3. Turn heat up to medium-high. Stir rapidly as you mix the remaining ingredients together. Do not boil.
4. Once all ingredients are mixed, pour them into your hot chocolate mug.
5. Top with more whipped cream and chocolate flakes.

Tips:

If you like spice add in cinnamon. If you want your hot chocolate to be sweet you can add white sugar. But if you want an authentic taste then you can skip the sugar.

- Mishti Jain (6F)



PIZZA Bites

Ingredients:

- Bread
- Pizza Sauce
- Cheese
- Veggie filling (Optional)

Instructions:

1. Take a slice of bread and layer it with pizza sauce.
2. Put in any veggie filling (optional).
3. Place diced cheese on 4 corners of the bread.
4. Layer another bread with pizza sauce and place it on top.
5. Cut into quarters and fry in oil or air fry until golden brown.

Tips:

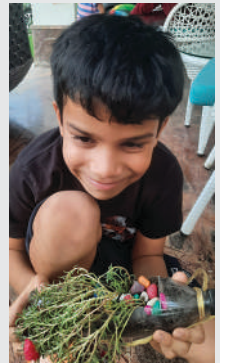
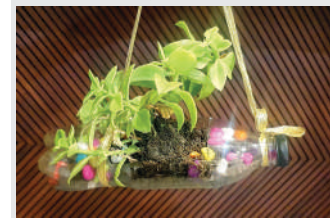
I would recommend you air fry the pizza bites as it can get a bit unhealthy if you fry them in oil.

- Agreya Shukla (7C)

PLANTER FROM WASTE PLASTIC BOTTLE

Living the spirit of *Wabi-Sabi*, Raaghav successfully converted an old waste plastic cold drink bottle into a planter, giving a lifeless waste article a new life. He enjoyed filling the bottle with the right quantity of soil for rooting the small plant and decorated the planter. He also learnt how to provide for draining excess water from the planter while he waters it everyday.

- Raaghav Saboo (2A)



MYSTERY WORD PUZZLE

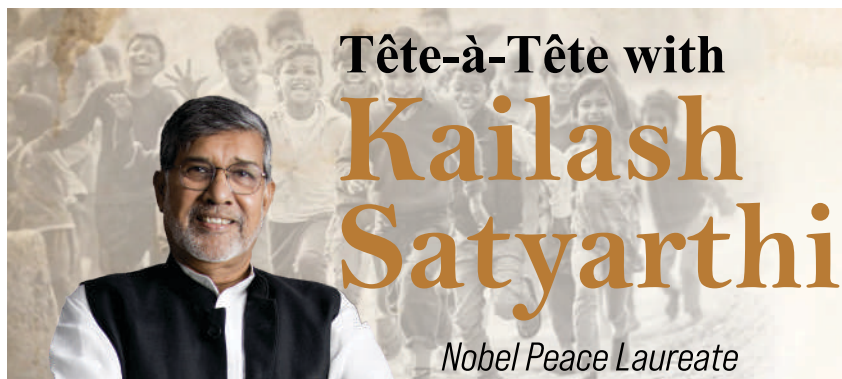
Find and mark all the words hidden inside the box:

- KIMONO TRANSCIENCE
- BONSAI KINTSUGI SUSHI
- IKIGAI SERENITY MONZOKU
- IMPERMANENT WABI SABI

SUDOKU

5	4				2			
1					9		5	3
			5		1	8	7	4
4	8	6				7	1	
3	2		8		7	9		
			2	1			4	
6		3		5		4		1
		4	6	7	3			9
	9	5					3	

i	m	p	e	r	m	a	n	e	n	t	t	k
a	w	b	e	a	r	t	b	y	u	i	t	i
s	o	a	w	a	b	i	s	a	b	i	r	n
e	a	z	p	s	a	d	b	f	b	g	a	t
r	m	o	n	z	o	k	u	t	i	l	n	s
e	u	b	d	n	z	x	b	k	c	v	s	u
n	t	n	q	a	f	m	i	a	q	w	i	g
i	k	e	b	t	y	g	r	j	f	s	e	i
t	i	a	f	h	a	b	f	b	u	u	n	y
y	m	y	f	i	f	a	h	a	d	s	c	b
k	o	e	o	s	v	t	h	b	n	h	e	o
b	n	x	k	a	b	o	n	s	a	i	a	n
t	o	u	a	r	g	o	l	d	b	e	a	d



The Editorial Board had the golden opportunity to speak to the very hard-working and talented Nobel Laureate, Mr Kailash Satyarthi who single-handedly kick-started a global movement against child labour. Mr Satyarthi's sheer wisdom and courage left us all with lingering thoughts and a passion to do more for our community.

Excerpts from the Interview

Q1 You, along with your team at 'Bachpan Bachao Andolan' have liberated more than 1 lakh children in India from the shackles of child labour, slavery, and trafficking. There must have been several challenges and obstacles in this journey. What motivated you to keep going in this fight?

Well, I used to read about the freedom struggle of India. I read about Mukti, moksha, emancipation, etc. when I was a young boy. I realised quite early that the effect of this freedom had not reached the very last child - someone who belonged to the lower and weaker sections of society. Such children were not only denied education but also their dignity, their future and most importantly, their childhood. On the very first day of my schooling, I saw a cobbler boy, my age, sitting at the doorstep of the school. I was disappointed and also curious to know why he was not in a class like the rest of us. When asked I was told that it was a common practice for poor children to toil under the harsh sun to provide for their poor families. One day I gathered enough courage to talk to that boy. His father stood up and told me that everyone in his family had done the same and never attended school. He said, "Sir, you are born to study and we are born to work." I cried out of anger and pain and that was the first spark. After this, I started questioning these activities around me. Every year we celebrated Children's Day, I felt that this scourge of child labour and slavery needed to be driven out from the face of Mother India. In 1980, I decided to leave my career and work for the cause of child exploitation which was deeply rooted in Indian society.

I experienced real freedom when I saw freed children rejoicing in the streets. I realised that their tears of joy were a glimpse of God. The biggest motivation for me will always be the smiles on the faces of these children, their innocence and that sacred purity that they carry.

Q2 In your fight to free enslaved children, you have also worked towards raising consumer awareness on buying carpets free from the evils of child exploitation. Please tell us more about this.

Well, first of all, one has to understand that every single child labour is employed at the cost of one adult worker. Globally speaking, today more than 210 million or 21 crore adults are jobless whereas 160 million children are full-time child labourers and another 50 million children are working part-time. If these children are removed from their jobs and their parents and other adults are employed, just imagine how many children would be able to attend school.

The major reason for child labour is the greed for cheap labour. Additionally, children are vulnerable and cannot fight in the court of law and will comply with the employers' wish - this is the pull factor. The push factor is the unemployment of the parents, poverty and lack of good quality education. We accelerate these factors by buying cheap goods such as carpets which are made by such children.

I have rescued children from extremely appalling and subhuman conditions of slavery. This prompted me to approach the consumers for help. I was not against the industry, I was against the malice of child slavery.

I had this idea that if in Germany, people wish to boycott animal products and there is a demand for biologically fit food then why can't we launch a consumer campaign for child labour-free carpets. I started communicating with my friends in Germany and we launched the first-ever campaign in history on the issue of child labour or slavery. It proved to be extremely successful. Consumers started demanding and I proposed that there should be a certification and labelling mechanism which caused the birth of GoodWeave. Due to the grand success of this proposal, the number of child slaves, most of them employed in the carpet industry of Southeast Asia, has gone down from 1 million to around 20 or 30 thousand.



Q3 There are 160 million children engaged as child labourers today, some as young as 5. Looking at the statistics, how difficult will it be to eradicate child labour?

It is certainly a difficult task. But I believe in tackling these difficulties, which is why I decided to leave my career as an electrical engineer when India and the world needed specialised engineers. My father passed away when I was young, my mother and elder siblings all wanted me to become an engineer, so emotionally, it was not an easy choice to make, coming from a modest family. However, this did not deter me because my dream was quite simple and clear: "Every child should be free to be a child. Every child should be free to laugh and cry. Every child should be free to jump and touch the sky and bring the stars on Earth."

I have, since then, chased my dream with utmost conviction and done whatever I could do but you cannot transform society, you cannot bend the arc of history in favour of the most vulnerable and marginalised people, the left-out children, without taking risks and facing difficulties along the way. So difficulties are good for learning new things and finding the answers to our problems. They make us stronger in life and many lessons emerge from these adversities. Obstacles make you smarter, they pave the way for possibilities: Nothing is impossible.

Q4 The spirit to fight injustice has been with you since childhood. In those times, you had worked a lot in Vidisha by distributing books to the underprivileged and erasing the lines of discrimination. What steps do you suggest students of this generation should take to contribute towards the welfare of their counterparts who are less privileged than them?

When I realised that many of my friends, including my best friend, had dropped out of school because they didn't have enough money to buy textbooks or pay the fees, it was a big shock for me. I decided that I will fight this social injustice so that every child gets the education he or she deserves. To fulfil this, my friends and I rented a cart. On the day the results were announced, we went around various localities to congratulate students and asked them to donate their old books. We collected over 3000 books within a few hours and initiated a book bank for children who needed them.

No matter how rich or poor one is, how old or where one comes from, what matters is that one must become solution oriented. One has to feel that I can make a difference because I was born on this earth and no one is born without a purpose. If we can take some time out and help someone, we can become useful citizens of the nation and the world. Happiness comes when you help others and uplift your society.

Q5 What can we, as responsible citizens do, to help eradicate child labour?

If you see your parents or your relatives or anyone you know employing a child as domestic help, a girl who has not yet attained 18 years of age, it is illegal and unethical, so have the courage to say NO. Take a resolve that whenever you go to a friend's place and you see a young boy or girl bringing a glass of water, politely but firmly refuse to drink it. You can do the same thing when you go to a restaurant and see a child cleaning tables or serving something, refuse their services. Sometimes silence is violence, not only in cases of child labour but also in cases of abuse. You have smartphones, use platforms like social media to raise your voice on their behalf and demand justice for them. If you see a child labourer then contact the Child Welfare Committees or the police because it is a punishable crime, dial 1098 or 100 and report it. When you see children begging on the streets, 99% of the time, they have been trafficked from their villages. Don't give them any alms, and make a formal complaint. These children are entitled to several benefits under government schemes and there is an act, the Juvenile Justice Act that has provisions for supporting the children who need care and protection. Spread the word, have the courage to question and be resilient in your quest to find the right answers.



"PHOTOGRAPHY IS THE BEAUTY OF LIFE CAPTURED."

- Tara chisholm



Mustufa Sher Khan (7A)



Nimrat Chugh (2D)



Devansh Kumar Sahu (11D)



Mysha Jain (8E)



Teerth Joshi (4B)



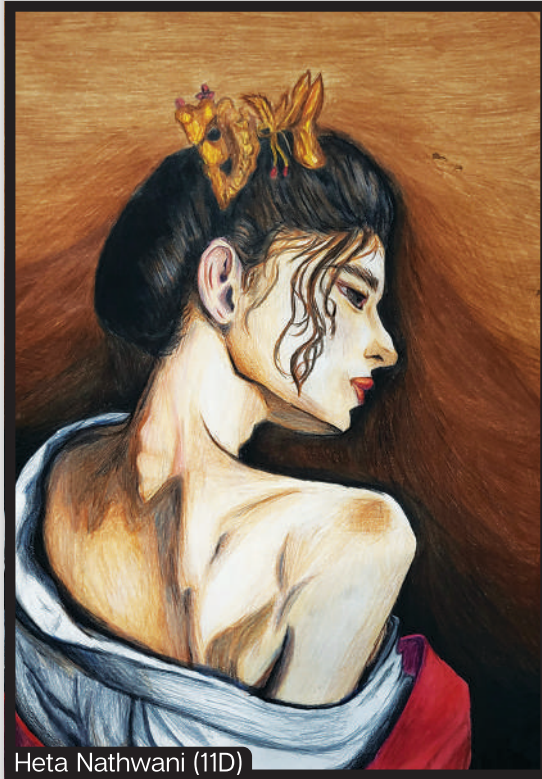
Ahaana Pandey (7F)



Irtiq Beg (6B)



Divi Mehta (7A)



Heta Nathwani (11D)



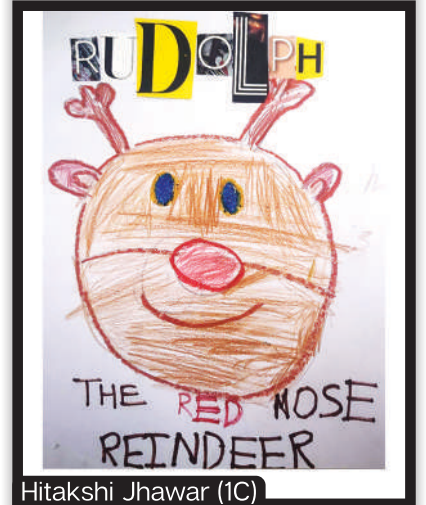
Vedika Jaisinghani (8B)



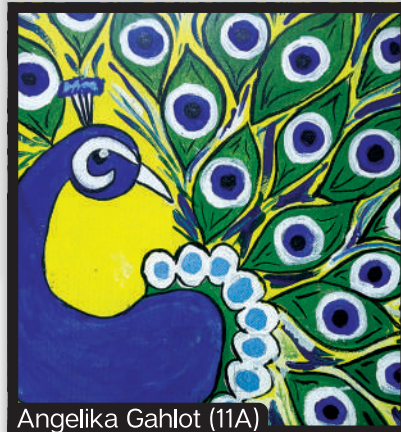
Pransh Parija (1C)



Mysha Jain (8E)



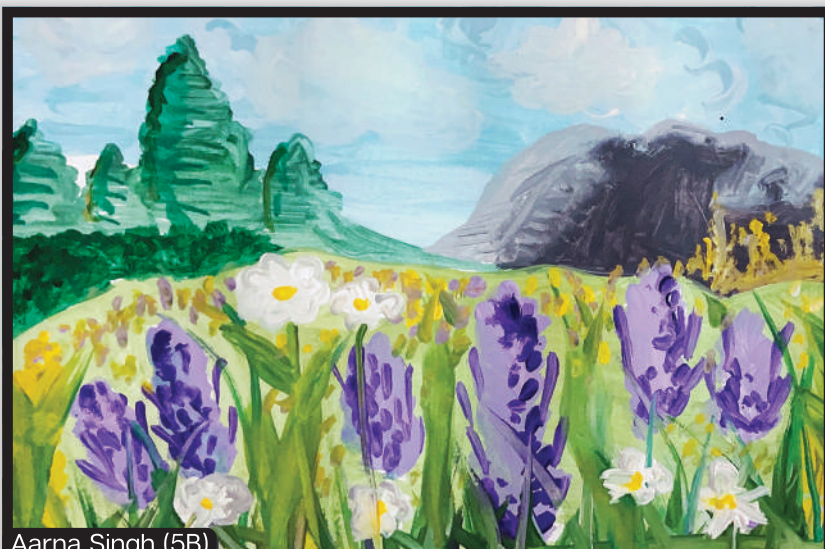
Hitakshi Jhavar (1C)



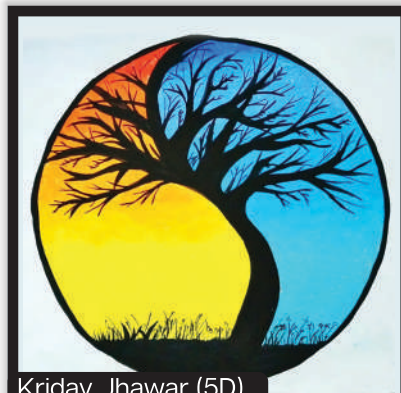
Angelika Gahlot (11A)



Rishbi Jhavar (11C)



Aarna Singh (5B)



Kriday Jhavar (5D)



Nishita Khemchandani (5A)